

Nine Facts about Planet Nine

Even though no one has seen it yet, astronomers believe they have discovered a ninth planet in our solar system.

Nine facts about 'Planet Nine':

- It is 10 times bigger than Earth.
- It might be 20 times further away than Neptune!
- Its orbit is 10,000 to 20,000 years.
- Its gravity seems to affect objects in space that circle around Neptune.
- The discovery of a 'new' planet for the first time in 150 years could change scientists' understanding of how the solar system was made.
- UFO enthusiasts have often written about a mythical 'Planet X'.
- There's only a one in 15,000 chance that it doesn't exist.
- It is a 'real' planet, which replaces the downgraded 'dwarf planet' Pluto.
- The race is on to prove its existence!



Quick Questions



1. Which word means the same as 'found'?



2. Find two adjectives that are antonyms of each other.



3. Do you think that the existence of Planet Nine will be proven? Explain why.



4. What effects has Planet Nine had on us and our solar system?

Nine Facts about Planet Nine

Even though no one has seen it yet, astronomers believe they have discovered a ninth planet in our solar system.

Nine facts about 'Planet Nine':

- It is 10 times bigger than Earth.
- It might be 20 times further away than Neptune!
- Its orbit is 10,000 to 20,000 years.
- Its gravity seems to affect objects in space that circle around Neptune.
- The discovery of a 'new' planet for the first time in 150 years could change scientists' understanding of how the solar system was made.
- UFO enthusiasts have often written about a mythical 'Planet X'.
- There's only a one in 15,000 chance that it doesn't exist.
- It is a 'real' planet, which replaces the downgraded 'dwarf planet' Pluto.
- The race is on to prove its existence!



Answers



1. Which word means the same as 'found'?
discovered



2. Find two adjectives that are antonyms of each other.
'mythical' and 'real'



3. Do you think that the existence of Planet Nine will be proven? Explain why.
Accept any reasonable explanation using the points from the text to support. E.g. Yes, because there is only a very small chance that it doesn't exist or No, because it is 20 times further away than Neptune so very difficult to actually see or get to.



4. What effects has Planet Nine had on us and our solar system?
Accept description of the effect of its gravity on objects around Neptune AND the effect of changing scientists' thinking.